Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* What is the amount spent for this bridge ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not much. I do not exactly remember the amount. It is only a temporary bridge.

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN—STEPS TAKEN.

164. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to give a short account of the steps taken and the enquiries made for the purpose of combating mosquitoes ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

A mosquito survey of Cochin and Ernakulam was conducted this year. As a result of the survey, it was understood that the incidence in these places of a particular type of mosquitoes—the stegomyia variety—is very high. This is a very harmful kind of mosquitoes, transmitting as they do a very dangerous disease—the yellow fever. In accordance with the advice of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India a scheme for the control of these mosquitoes has been sanctioned. Special staff has been appointed at Ernakulam and Mattancheri to carry on antimosquito work. The work of this staff is directed towards the elimination of all possible breeding places of these mosquitoes by systematic and periodical inspection of private premises.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, in spite of this, mosquitoes are increasing. What is the reason ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What is to be done? Mosquitoes persist in living. The conditions also are very favourable for their propagation. It is a very difficult problem, and one does not know what to do with these beings. There are various grave complications in places like Ernakulam and Mattancheri. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government; but, unless we know something definite about these proposals, it is very difficult to do any constructive work.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* In Alleppey and Calicut they were able to succeed to a great extent

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is a difference here. We have got a large tract of marshy land. There they clean the drains and some sort of oil is poured over those drains which will constitute a covering over the water, and these mosquitoes and their breeding places will be destroyed. But here because of these marshy places, the difficulty has been increased by hundredfold. That is the reason.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is it a fact that in Calicut the mosquito nuisance has been completely wiped off?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It has been abated to a very great extent. But still there is some, no doubt.

SHORANUR—COCHIN RAILWAY—STATIONS—RAISING OF PLATFORMS.

165. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state :—

whether they have come to know the hardship experienced by passengers especially ladies and old people in getting into and getting out of the compartments on account of the low plat-forms in the Railway stations on the Cochin line?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* The hon'ble member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 53 of the last Budget Session (vide page 304, Part 5, Vol. I. Fifth series of the Legislative Council Proceedings.)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know, Sir, what that answer is?

Mr. President : The hon'ble member may refer to that.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* If this answer had been supplied to me yesterday, I would have had sufficient time to look into it. May I know whether this matter has been brought to the notice of the South Indian Railway Advisory Board?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* In fact the information that I have received from them two weeks back is this. There are yet 21 carriages on the broadguage to be fitted with third foot-steps and hand-rails and 4 to be fitted with hand-rails only. It is not possible to furnish any definite information with regard to the carriages running on the Shoranur-Cochin Railway as separate carriages are not provided, and as they may vary from day to day. So that now there are only about 21 which have to be fitted with these things. And a few may be running on our line now and then.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is there any objection to raise the platform?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* Yes. Because the cost is prohibitive.

SHORANUR—COCHIN RAILWAY—SINKING OF WELL.

166. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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